

QUESTION ABOUT MORMONS  
Answered by Willis E. Bishop  
in a 1986 Class

I have mentioned that in Silver Spring, Maryland, where we lived, the Mormons built one of their beautiful new temples and opened it for the public to go through. Then afterward they closed it so no one but Mormons can enter, and they replaced all the beautiful carpets because Gentiles had walked on them and had defiled them. The question was asked as to why do they speak of us as Gentiles.

That goes back into Mormon history (not Bible history), so you can weigh the facts yourself. In Mormon history, they claim that two Jewish brothers were told by the Lord to leave Jerusalem, and in a man-made boat of their own they sailed across the seas and landed in South America. From there made their way eventually north into North America as far as where New York state is. This history begins about 600 years before Christ and extends to the present time.

The Mormons believe they are descended from those two Jewish men. That account is in the Book of Mormon. They claim that some of the American Indians were descendants of these two Jewish men. Also one of their descendants was a fellow named Mormon, who wrote a history and buried it in a place near Palmyra, New York, and those were the golden plates that Joseph Smith supposedly dug up and read by the use of the urim and thumim of the Old Testament -- a special pair of glasses which were provided for him. Those plates were written in sort of an adapted Egyptian hieroglyphic, Joseph Smith claimed. That is the basis for speaking of us as Gentiles -- they believe themselves to have been of Jewish descent.

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